

Digital Defender



Tejasvi Manoj is TIME's Kid of the Year. She created a program to educate seniors about online scams.

LEXILE: 990L

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Science, Technology, and Society

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.4, W.6-8.8

ENGAGE THE READER

Ask students to jot down responses to the following: What is a scam? Have you ever been the victim of one? Who do you think are potential targets for online scams? Bring the class together to discuss what a scam is, and what makes someone vulnerable to one. Did anyone mention seniors as potential targets? Show students the article “Digital Defender” and explain that Tejasvi Manoj is helping prevent seniors from falling victim to scams.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- What makes seniors susceptible to online scams? How does Tejasvi Manoj's work help prevent this?
- What are some other lessons that might help seniors adjust to a changing world?
- The article mentions Tejasvi's desire to build “digital bridges” to all people. What does that mean? Why is it important?

EXTEND LEARNING

Take some time to focus on the second and third discussion questions above. Have students consider other gaps that might exist between people in the digital age. Introduce the term *technology literacy* and ask what students think it means. Define it as a familiarity with digital tools and the ability to easily learn new skills. Have students work with a partner to create a list of digital skills that they're familiar with (e.g., using social media, sending an email, writing an essay in Google Docs), but that might not be familiar to people born long before the digital age.

Have students share some ideas while you compile a list on the board. Assign or have students choose a skill from the list that they're very comfortable with. Have them create a lesson or presentation that will teach someone that skill. To extend the lesson further, work with your school to set up a day for community members to come in and learn one of these skills from the students.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.
To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

- 1. C** (RI.2) **2. A** (RI.4) **3. C** (RI.3) **4. B** (RI.1) **5. B** (RI.8)
6. D (RI.7) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.2)

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week's cover story, "Digital Defender," to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, use the back of this page.

1. Which could be another headline for this article? A. "A History of Helping" B. "Security Scam" C. "Protecting Seniors" D. "Reporting Cybercrime"	4. What is the purpose of Shield Seniors? A. to take advantage of people who don't understand the Internet B. to educate people 60 and older about online scams C. to raise money for victims of cybercrime D. to provide online classes about coding
2. Which word could replace savvy, in the second paragraph? A. knowledge B. crimes C. ideas D. sites	5. Which quote supports the idea that seniors really want information about online safety? A. "I was super nervous. . . . What if no one shows up?" B. "At the end, some of them came up to me with questions, and I was able to help them." C. "Tejasvi was surprised that there was such a lack of awareness among her grandparents." D. "I really love the fact that you can solve problems with your computer."
3. What event caused Tejasvi Manoj to create Shield Seniors? A. She volunteered as an online tutor in the sixth grade. B. She won the 2024 Congressional App Challenge. C. Her grandfather got a scam email from someone pretending to be a relative, asking for \$2,000. D. She took a cybersecurity course in eighth grade.	6. What question can be answered by the photos included with the article? A. What event caused Tejasvi to create Shield Seniors? B. What coding languages does Tejasvi mostly use? C. Why do older Americans need protection from online scams? D. What's an achievement that Tejasvi has accomplished besides creating Shield Seniors?

7. What's another seminar that might be helpful for seniors? Explain.
